

LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE | DRAFT MINUTES

Zoom meeting of the Larger Councils Committee on 15 December 2021 at 11.00

Present:

Councillors Peter Astell (committee vice-chair), Dave Barton, Mike Drew (NALC vice-chair, member services), Paul Harvey (committee chair), Mathew Hulbert and Richard Parry; and directly elected clerks Jane Biscombe, Shar Roselman and Carl Hearn.

Staff present: Chris Borg (policy manager) and Justin Griggs (head of policy and communications) (for part)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Smith.

2. Introductions

2.1 The committee chair welcomed new committee members Cllrs Barton and Hulbert to the committee. There was then a round-robin introduction of all committee members and officers.

3. Election of committee chair and vice-chair 2022-23

Resolved (1): That Cllr Paul Harvey be re-elected as committee chair for 2022-23.

Resolved (2): That Cllr Peter Astell be re-elected as committee vice chair for 2022-23.

4. Committee terms of reference

The chair invited comments on the committee's terms of reference:

- It was suggested a new bullet under the last section be inserted to reflect the committee being a voice for larger councils within the organisation.
- The definitions of a larger council and for councils in the Super Councils Network (SCN) be reviewed during the governance review being undertaken by National Assembly.

Resolved (1): That the terms of reference be noted a new line inserted to the final section stating that the committee was the voice of larger councils within the organisation.

Resolved (2): That the definitions of a Super Council and a larger council be reviewed as part of the governance review.

5. Filling vacant positions

There was a lengthy debate about how or if to fill the five vacancies to the committee and it was agreed not to recommend a further round of elections. Cllr Richard Parry offered to also take on the role as the second representative of the SCN. The committee noted that Cllr Pat Ansell had not put herself forward during the elections process but was keen to be considered for any vacancies. Cllr Hulbert suggested the process should help to increase the diversity of people putting themselves forward including age as well as gender.

Resolved (1): To recommend that Cllr Richard Parry also acts as the second SCN representative on the committee.

Resolved (2): That there should be a process to seek expressions of interest to be co-opted and that nominations are considered at the next meeting.

6. Committee work programme 22-23

The committee discussed ideas for a draft work programme which included:

- sharing good practice
- piloting extension of LGSCO
- supporting NALC's campaigns and big themes including developing an evidence base for direct funding
- identifying future membership needs for advice and guidance
- further peer reviews with the Local Government Association
- piloting cyber security with the National Cyber Security Centre
- an effective National Network: Super Councils
- continuing National Network: Coastal communities
- partnering with the Rural Services Network on the National Network: Market towns

Resolved: That the ideas for the draft work programme be agreed and further proposals considered at the next meeting.

7. Committee overview

There was a brief overview of other matters important to larger councils including recruitment of clerks to larger councils, training, bullying, devolution and apprenticeships.

Resolved: That alternative dates be suggested and circulated for the second, third and fourth committee meetings of 2022.

8. Date and time of next meeting

22 February 2022 at 11.00 via Zoom

Councillor Paul Harvey
chair